

A NEW RECORD FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF THE THICK-TAILED GECKO (*Underwoodisaurus milii*)

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Counts of European rabbits (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) are undertaken bi-monthly in an experimental area located on Owen Springs Station, 35 kilometres south-west of Alice Springs, Northern Territory. As an adjunct to this work, sightings of feral cats (*Felis catus*) are noted and where possible specimens are shot and their stomach contents recorded.

On the night of 4 August, 1982, an adult male cat was shot as it emerged from a rabbit warren (23° 53' S, 133° 33' E). Examination of its stomach contents revealed the following prey items:

- *Underwoodisaurus milii* (immature, snout-vent length 45 mm)
- *Amphibolurus nuchalis* (part of adult)
- *Mus musculus* (two adults)
- *Oryctolagus cuniculus* (foot and fur)
- Grasshopper (unidentified)

The cat was taken from an open calcareous plain with sparse witehetty bush (*Acacia kenpeana*) in the upper storey and short annual grasses and forbs in the under storey. Immediately to the south are large areas of sandy red earths dominated by Mulga (*Acacia aneura*). The two Land Systems, Muller and Ewaninga, are described by Perry et. al. (1962).

The *U. milii* is the first record of the species from the Northern Territory and is lodged with the Central Australian Museum in Alice Springs (NTM-A/S R979).

The Map shows the location of the new record in relation to the previous known distribution of *U. milii* (after Cogger 1979).

References

- COGGER, H. G. (1979) Reptiles and Amphibians of Australia, Reed, Sydney.
PERRY, R. A. et. al. (1962) Lands of the Alice Springs Area, Northern Territory, 1956-57. Land Research Series No. 6, CSIRO, Melbourne.

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Map. Distribution of
Underwoodisaurus milii.
(after Cogger 1979)

* Location of new record.